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LETTER DATED 30 APRIL 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a recent communiqué of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba concerning the preparation of large-scale war manoeuvres by the Government of the United States which involve simulated aggression against Cuba.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON DE QUESADA
Ambassador

Annex

Communiqué of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba

The United States is conducting large-scale war manoeuvres directed against Cuba.

During the first few days of May, three military manoeuvres will coincide, involving simulated acts of aggression against our country.

Over a number of years, between the months of April and June, the United States Armed Forces have been conducting large-scale manoeuvres in the Caribbean region.

Last year two exercises were carried out in succession: "Solid Shield - 89", which alternates every year with "Ocean Venture" and which, as in these latest manoeuvres, involved the deployment of large groups of warships and sea and air landings; and the strategic manoeuvre "Global Shield - 89", a simulation of all-out nuclear war which included a massive mock air strike against Cuba on 20 May 1989, as revealed in detail by Bastión on the 25th of that same month.

Accordingly, on 20 April 1990 the exercise "Ocean Venture" was launched, and it has been learned that, as part of the exercise, which is now under way, air and sea landings will be carried out next week, presumably in areas of Puerto Rico.

Another phase of "Ocean Venture" and other naval manoeuvres envisages the conduct at Guantánamo naval base of defence exercises of the type known as "Defex", which include evacuation of the civilian personnel of that base, as Bastión reported on 3 March 1990.

The arrival yesterday morning, Saturday, 28 April, of an LPD amphibious transport craft and two military transport planes could be connected with the arrival of reinforcements at Guantánamo naval base. In addition to this vessel, two LST tank landing craft are at present at Guantánamo.

During the first few days of May, three exercises are expected to coincide for the first time. These are "Ocean Venture", whose most active phase is supposed to take place between 1 and 5 May, and "Defex" at Guantánamo, followed by - or occurring simultaneously with - the strategic manoeuvre "Global Shield". The fact that these all coincide is unusual and dangerous. Some parts of these manoeuvres are being conducted in absolute secrecy.

In the present circumstances, coming after the changes in Eastern Europe as the result of which the Warsaw Treaty has become virtually a dead letter, in the midst of the climate of détente and negotiation prevailing between the Governments of the USSR and the United States, and at a time when the Bush Administration can count on a docile and subservient Government in Panama, put in place by Yankee bayonets, and when in Nicaragua a new Government is taking office following the

READEX FICHE

electoral defeat of the Sandinista Front, this eye-catching deployment of forces and matériel in a belicose manner is utterly without justification.

The conduct of these exercises simultaneously or in succession, especially "Global Shield", which is of strategic scope, involves the deployment, in areas immediately adjoining Cuban national territory or in its general vicinity, of large formations of United States forces, including the 82d Airborne Division, the 101st Air Assault Division and the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division.

The exercises involve hundreds of warplanes, including tactical fighters and B1-B and B-52 strategic bombers, as well as many warships like the BB-64 battleship Wisconsin.

Thus, a dangerous situation is emerging which may be comprehended only in the light of the mounting hostility and the continual aggressive and provocative actions of the United States Government against Cuba, as illustrated by the attempt to beam a television signal that violates the sovereignty of the Cuban State.

The Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces is therefore fulfilling its duty to alert national and international public opinion to the dangers arising from this escalation of pressure and threats which greatly complicate the situation in the region, give rise to new and heightened tension and make it possible to envisage that the United States Government is plotting an attack against Cuba.

Consequently, Cuba has just been adopting the measures envisaged for such cases in order to ward off a treacherous surprise attack. Our Armed Forces and our people will also carry out the relevant exercises and manoeuvres.

Ministry of the Revolutionary
Armed Forces

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30 April 1990

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 70 of the preliminary list*
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the resolution adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, which took place at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 70 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andreas V. MAVROMMATIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Resolution on the promotion of peace and security in the Mediterranean region in the light of the developments in Europe and the new spirit prevailing internationally, adopted by the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held at Nicosia from 2 to 7 April 1990

The 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that security in the Mediterranean region is inextricably linked with the security of the whole of Europe and with international peace and security,

Welcoming the historic developments taking place in Europe in the direction of détente, disarmament, the promotion of human rights and democratic principles and the enhancement of co-operation between European countries in all fields,

Recognizing that these developments constitute an important contribution to building a Common European Home and mark the beginning of a new era in European and world affairs,

Expressing satisfaction at the positive developments taking place world wide, particularly the dialogue between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, which has strengthened international co-operation and enhanced prospects for resolving issues which threaten world peace and the freedom of peoples,

Deeply concerned that, despite the new international climate, certain States still undertake actions that violate the sovereignty and independence of other States and the right of peoples to decide freely upon their future,

Recalling the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, and the Concluding Documents of the Madrid and Vienna Follow-up Meetings, particularly the chapters concerning the Mediterranean region,

Underlining the substantive contribution of the neutral and non-aligned countries of Europe to the CSCE process,

Recalling the Document of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security-building Measures and Disarmament in Europe,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region, as well as article 39 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,

Recalling the declarations concerning the Mediterranean region adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the non-aligned countries in 1984 and 1987, and by the

Foreign Affairs Ministers of the CSCE countries in 1990, as well as the declarations of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, the resolutions of the Conference of the Union of African Parliaments, held at Cairo in March 1990, and the declaration of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, at Kuala Lumpur (1989),

Recalling the Concluding Resolutions of the VIth Inter-Parliamentary Conference on European Co-operation and Security, particularly with regard to questions relating to security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region,

Convinced that developments in Europe have enhanced prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean collaboration, yet aware that such collaboration can only flourish if a just and lasting solution is found to the problems facing the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming the need for a just and peaceful settlement of persistent problems in the region in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned of the existence of hotbeds of tension, occupation and aggression in the Mediterranean region, and underlining the need to turn the Mediterranean basin into an area of peace and co-operation in the future,

Reaffirming that the right to emigrate implies the right to choose one's destination, but that these two rights should not be exercised to the detriment of the rights of another people in its homeland,

Underlining that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East will contribute to the promotion of peace and security in the Mediterranean region,

1. Urges all Parliaments and Governments to strive to reinforce the new international climate by taking measures to promote peace and security, respect of human rights and democratic principles;

2. Calls upon all States to adhere strictly to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the universally accepted principles of international law and to avoid the threat or use of force against other States;

3. Also calls upon the Parliaments and Governments of European countries to continue to foster the process of dialogue, multifaceted co-operation and confidence- and security-building measures, and urges European States to exert further efforts to ensure that positive developments in Europe, including disarmament measures, are adequately reflected in the Mediterranean;

4. Resolutely supports all efforts aimed at securing compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the Madrid and Vienna Concluding Documents of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe;

5. Reaffirms the need to make the Mediterranean region one of peace, security and co-operation, free from conflict and confrontation, and strongly urges the States in the area that have not yet acceded to the treaties on the non-proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons to do so promptly;

6. Calls upon States outside the region to withdraw their fleets from the Mediterranean and their military presence from the region and to cease all military exercises;

7. Declares that Governments should take concrete steps to remove sources of tension in the Mediterranean region, created by the violation of borders, the interruption and endangering of safe passage of civilian, commercial and passenger shipping, foreign occupation and the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. Stresses that tension in the Mediterranean region cannot be eliminated without a just and lasting solution of the Middle East problem that would restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international law and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and would include Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and South Lebanon;

9. Reaffirms in particular the resolutions of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union calling for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization - the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people - Israel and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council;

10. Underscores and approves of the role played by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in creating conditions that are conducive to furthering the process of peace in the region;

11. Condemns the continuing colonization of the occupied Arab territories, which creates a deeply disturbing and dangerous situation exacerbated by Israel's organization of the massive emigration and illegal settlement of Jews in these plundered lands, including Jerusalem, in violation of all resolutions adopted by international bodies and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

12. Calls upon Governments and Parliaments to use the peaceful means at their disposal to prevent the establishment of new settlements or the extension of existing settlements in the occupied Arab territories by Israel;

13. Expresses deep concern over the dangerous situation in Lebanon and the continued violence that has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives;

14. Calls for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and 508 (1982) and 509 (1982) in order to

safeguard the territorial integrity of Lebanon, its security and its right to exercise sovereignty throughout its territory, and calls upon the aggressor immediately to cease its creeping annexation of territory in South Lebanon and to return the annexed lands, whose inhabitants have been evacuated, to their rightful owners;

15. Urges all parties concerned in Lebanon to refrain from engaging in hostilities and to strive to consolidate the legitimate power, reaffirms that the settlement of the Lebanese crisis must be based on Lebanon's sovereignty over all of its national territory, the unity of its territory and its freedom, as defined by the Teef Agreement, and notes that this is the only means of initiating a process leading to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis;

16. Calls for the release of all hostages held in Lebanon, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) workers who have been in captivity for six months, so that the ICRC can pursue its humanitarian work while enjoying the respect it needs to operate;

17. Expresses deep concern at the situation in Cyprus which has significant implications for peace and security in the region, condemns the continued forced division of the island, the presence of occupation troops and settlers and the violation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of the Republic of Cyprus, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of all Turkish troops from the island in line with United Nations resolutions;

18. Resolutely supports a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, in particular Security Council resolutions 541 (1983), 550 (1984), 649 (1990) and the high-level agreements of 1977 and 1979, which form the basis for satisfying the interests and concerns of both communities on the island;

19. Calls upon Governments and Parliaments to use the means at their disposal, urgently to promote a solution to the problem in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus;

20. Recommends that the Inter-Parliamentary Council establish a committee to monitor the situation closely and report to the relevant bodies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on developments in Cyprus;

21. Condemns the use of armed force in the settlement of international conflicts in the area;

22. Reaffirms the importance of intensifying and constantly fostering contacts and co-operation among Mediterranean States in various fields, with a view to furthering the establishment of peace and security in the region;

23. Underlines the importance of multi-faceted co-operation among Mediterranean States, and calls upon them to strengthen co-operation in all

economic and social fields, particularly economic development and the environment, so as to further promote the development of the region;

24. Welcomes the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union at Marrakesh, Morocco, on 17 February 1989, and of the Arab Co-operative Council on 16 February 1989, and hails these events as a factor of peace, stability, security and development in the region;

25. Calls upon European countries to ensure that in the process of expanding European economic co-operation, due attention is paid to the interests of non-European Mediterranean countries, and also calls upon all States concerned to exert every effort to alleviate the heavy debt burden;

26. Recommends the convening of a conference of parliamentarians of all Mediterranean States under IPU auspices with the object of discussing measures addressing environmental priorities, such as the means to combat the deplorable pollution of the sea, and defining measures aimed at promoting peace and security in the region and closer co-operation in various fields so as to further the interests of the peoples in the area.

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Forty-fifth session
Items 23 and 77 of the
preliminary list*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF
THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 27 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 27 April 1990 at a briefing in the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

I should be grateful if you would have this text distributed as an official document of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under items 23 and 77 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

According to information being received, on 26 April - on the occasion of the observance of the end of the Muslim fast - units of the Israeli Army stormed the Jabalia Palestine refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. The operation, commanded by the Chief of the Israeli General Staff, D. Shomron, employed tanks and military helicopters. Israeli soldiers broke into homes and mosques and carried out mass searches and arrests.

In protest, Palestinians began massive demonstrations in Gaza. Although the demonstrators employed exclusively peaceful means, without using weapons, the Israeli troops fired on them. As a result, at least two Palestinians were killed and about one hundred wounded.

The Soviet Union roundly condemns this cruel and criminal action by the Israeli soldiery and demands an immediate end to the acts of repression against the civilian population, the systematic violations of human rights and the insulting of the religious feelings of the faithful.

All those actions fall clearly within the overall context of the unlawful policy pursued by Israel in the occupied Arab territories, consisting in the continual establishment there of new illegal settlements and the settling of Jewish immigrants. That policy must be firmly resisted by the entire international community.

It is high time for the Israeli leadership to realize that reliance on repression and brute force will lead their country down a blind alley and undermine peaceful efforts in the region. Once again we appeal to Israel to heed the voice of reason and to make a genuine choice in favour of peace based on law and justice.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 39
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 1 May 1990 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I wish to draw your urgent attention to the further escalation of repression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Since my letter to you on 15 February 1990 (A/44/920-S/21151), more Palestinians, including children, have been killed or wounded. According to a recent report of the DataBase Project on Palestinian Human Rights, 893 Palestinians including 216 children under 16 years of age, were killed between the beginning of the intifadah in December 1987 and 9 April 1990. Al-Fajr reported on 12 April 1990 that during March 1990, 20 Palestinians were killed by the Israeli Army, including 9 children under 18, and hundreds were wounded.

Harsh collective punishment continues to be imposed widely. Al-Fajr reported on 9 April 1990 that at a press conference on 5 April the Israeli Public Committee against Torture had condemned the torture of Palestinians during interrogation by police and security officers. Representatives of the Committee said that lawyers and human rights organizations had recently been hearing with "depressing regularity" reports of torture during the intifadah. The same issue of Al-Fajr reported that six Arab Knesset members had demanded, following a visit to Ansar 3 detention camp on 4 April, the release of all Palestinians under administrative detention and the closure of the camp. The Knesset members had condemned the harsh conditions in the camp, where 753 administrative detainees, 3,888 sentenced prisoners and 1,406 suspects awaiting trial were being held.

The Israeli authorities continue to commit other violations of Palestinian rights in the occupied Palestinian territory. The daily Ha'aretz reported on

12 April 1990 that, on the previous day, the eve of Good Friday, some 20 armed Jewish families, singing and clapping, had moved into St. John's Hospice near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This unprecedented Jewish move into a Muslim or Christian district of the Old City had sparked protests and international condemnation. On 23 April The New York Times reported that the Israeli Government had acknowledged that it had secretly provided the settlers with nearly $2 million for the purchase of the Hospice. It was also reported that a lower Israeli court had ordered their eviction but that the Supreme Court would take up the case shortly.

On 19 April, The Washington Post reported that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was "hurriedly seeking" to establish new Jewish settlements in the occupied territories before leaving office. It was reported that the newly appointed person to oversee the new drive had launched a "crash program" to break ground for four new settlements in the next few weeks and to install permanent housing at Jewish-occupied sites in the West Bank cities of Nablus and Hebron. It was also reported that settlers had already begun work at a new settlement, Dugit, located just north of Gaza City.

Deeply alarmed at the extreme gravity of the settlement activities and the increasing incidents of oppression and mounting number of victims, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People deplores once again the repressive policy and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, which are in violation of its obligations under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and are contrary to the provisions of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Committee considers that the adoption of urgent measures by the Security Council to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/233 of 20 April 1989 and 44/2 of 6 October 1989, is imperative. The Committee also appeals to you and to the organizations of the United Nations system to adopt intensified measures to alleviate the suffering of the unarmed Palestinian civilians under the occupation, especially women and children.

The Committee wishes to stress once again the urgent necessity to advance towards a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian question in accordance with the principles reaffirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 44/42 of 6 December 1989, and reiterates its appeal to you and to all concerned to intensify efforts to attain this essential objective.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as an official document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Absa Claude DIALLO
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise
of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 34
THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS
TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND
PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 30 April 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

I have the honour to transmit the texts of the following:

(a) The Joint Political Declaration of the Dublin Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Co-operation between the European Community and its Member States, the Countries of Central America and Panama, and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as Co-operating Countries, held on 9 and 10 April 1990 (annex I);

(b) The Joint Economic Communiqué issued by the European Community and the countries party to the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration and Panama, resulting from the Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Co-operation between the European Community and its Member States, the States of Central America and Panama, and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as Co-operating Countries, held at Dublin on 9 and 10 April 1990 (annex II).

The original languages of these two documents are English, French and Spanish.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under item 34 of the agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Francis Mahon HAYES
Ambassador

ANNEX I

JOINT POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE DUBLIN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES, THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA AS COOPERATING COUNTRIES, HELD ON 9 AND 10 APRIL 1990

1. The Sixth Ministerial Conference between the European Community and its Member States, the countries of Central America and Panama, and Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries on the political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Community and the countries of the Central American Isthmus, inaugurated in Costa Rica in 1984 and thereafter pursued at annual meetings, was held in Dublin on 9 and 10 April 1990.

2. Those taking part in the Conference were:

For the European Community

Ireland
H.E. Mr Gerard COLLINS, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy
H.E. Mr Ivo BUTINI
Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg
H.E. Mr Georges WOHLFART
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands
H.E. Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs

/...

Portugal
H.E. Mr Joao DE DEUS PINHEIRO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom
H.E. Mr Timothy SAINSBURY, MP
Under Secretary of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Belgium
H.E. Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark
H.E. Mr Benny KIMBERG
Secretary of State for Political Affairs

Federal Republic of Germany
H.E. Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece
H.E. Mr Panayotis TSOUNIS
Ambassador of Greece to Ireland

Spain
H.E. Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs

France
H.E. Mr Roland DUMAS
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Commission
H.E. Mr Abel Matutes
Member of the Commission

For Central America and Panama

Costa Rica
H.E. Mr Rodrigo MADRIGAL NIETO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

El Salvador
H.E. Mr Jose Manuel PACAS CASTRO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Guatemala
H.E. Mr Ariel RIVERA IRIAS
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Honduras
H.E. Mr Mario CARIAS ZAPATA
Minister for Foreign Affairs

/...

Nicaragua
H.E. Mr Javier CHAMORRO
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Panama
H.E. Mr Julio E. LINARES
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries

Colombia
H.E. Mrs Clemencia FORERO DE CASTELLANOS
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mexico
H.E. Mr Fernando SOLANA
Secretary for External Relations

Venezuela
H.E. Mr Reinaldo FIGUEREDO PLANCHART
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SCA-I)

Mr Marco Antonio VILLAMAR CONTRERAS
Secretary General

3. The participants examined issues of mutual interest in the context of the dialogue and cooperation established in the past decade. They welcomed the positive evolution of the regional peace process in Central America. They agreed that there has been progress compared to the serious prospects which characterised the area at the end of the 70ies and the beginning of the 80ies. This period was characterised by lack of democracy in some countries of the region, external intervention, border incidents, a high level of violence, a massive flux of refugees and other negative factors. The Central American peace process helped to counter these negative factors and in this it enjoyed the support, often reiterated, of the European Community.

The mediation efforts of the Contadora Group followed by the Central American dialogue initiated by the Esquipulas process, have allowed for detailed negotiation aimed at the achievement of lasting peace, genuine pluralism, democratic and participative processes, respect for human rights and International Law, stability and social and economic development of the region.

They welcomed the increasing involvement in Central America of the United Nations and of the Organisation of the American States, whose participation has created a new climate of confidence in the relations between the Central American

countries. Accordingly, they encouraged the Secretaries-General of both organisations to pursue their important contribution towards peace in the region.

4. Taking into account that the critical economic situation in Central America is further deteriorating, the Ministers of the European Community and of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela as cooperating countries reaffirmed their Governments' commitment and willingness to continue actively supporting the efforts deployed by the Central American countries in the framework of the Esquipulas process. The Ministers of the European Community reaffirmed the importance of intensifying economic cooperation between the European Community and Central America, aimed at strengthening the economic integration of the region and supporting its economic development and social progress in the interest of greater political stability.

The Ministers called on the European Commission to seek with Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela means of coordinating Community aid with aid from those three countries for the countries of the Central American Isthmus, with the aim of increasing the overall effectiveness of cooperation.

The Ministers agreed to reiterate the importance of international cooperation as a parallel element indispensable in the political efforts towards peace in the area, as expressed by the Central American Presidents at their San Isidro de Coronado Summit meeting in December last and reiterated in the Montelimar declaration on 3 April 1990.

The Ministers of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela reiterated that the economic support of the international community was indispensable in the peace process and, in this regard, they pledged the support of their Governments.

5. The Ministers agreed that the best existing option to achieve a durable solution to the Central American crisis, as illustrated by progress already made despite difficulties and obstacles encountered, remains full compliance with the Agreements subscribed to in the framework of the Esquipulas process. At the same time they underlined the need to respect the norms and principles of International Law, and more specifically the U.N. Charter and the Charter of the Organisation of American States.

6. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of the full participation of peoples in genuinely democratic and pluralistic political processes and stressed the necessity for all countries in the region to respect these processes, human rights, the rule of law, the separation of institutional powers and, in particular, to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

They considered that this should facilitate the promotion of social justice, sovereignty, the territorial integrity of States and the right of all peoples freely and without external interference of any kind to determine their political, economic and social model.

The Ministers recalled that the European Parliament, in the Community budget for 1990, included a provision to finance actions aimed at reinforcing democratic processes in Central America.

7. The Ministers also considered that, in accordance with the Esquipulas Agreements, active encouragement should be given to an internal dialogue aimed, through national reconciliation and without fear, at establishing or improving genuine pluralist democracy involving the promotion of social justice and guaranteeing full and effective respect for all human rights, for civil and political liberties, and for economic, social and cultural rights.

In this connection, the Ministers of the European Community and of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela strongly urged all parties to reach agreement on a cessation of hostilities in the states of the region that at present suffer from actions by irregular groups, through appropriate measures designed to achieve an effective cease-fire, in accordance with the provisions of the Esquipulas II Agreement.

They stressed the importance of complying with the Agreements subscribed to by the Central American Presidents in the Tela and San Isidro de Coronado summits for the promotion of peace, security and democracy in Central America, commitments which were ratified and reiterated in Montelimar.

The participants urged all irregular forces operating in the area to join in the constitutional political processes of their respective countries, in accordance with the Joint Programme for, on the one hand, the voluntary demobilisation, repatriation and relocation of the members of the Nicaraguan resistance and of their relatives, in Nicaragua and elsewhere, and, on the other hand, assistance in the demobilisation of all those involved in armed actions in other countries of the region, when they request this on a voluntary basis as confirmed by the Montelimar declaration.

8. The Ministers underlined the importance of elections in El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica since the last ministerial conference of San Pedro Sula. In all those instances, elections were held freely, democratically and fairly in conformity with the spirit of Esquipulas II, thus reinforcing the democratic processes in those countries.

The Ministers also stated that the recent elections held in Nicaragua and which had been announced by the President of the Republic of Nicaragua at the Costa del Sol summit, represent a historic event for this country.

The Central American and the European Ministers agreed that the elections in Nicaragua took place freely, democratically and fairly, in accordance with the Esquipulas Agreements as underlined by the corresponding electoral organisations and the Observers of the United Nations, the Organisation of American States and the European Parliament, inter alia.

They emphasised that the afore-mentioned elections should promote the reinforcement and consolidation of democratic institutionality and of the rule of law in Nicaragua. They also welcomed the determination of the government of Nicaragua to take all steps necessary to bring about an orderly, complete and peaceful handover to the incoming government in the framework of the Protocol of transfer.

They underlined the positive role of international observation in the electoral processes, in accordance with point 4 of the Esquipulas process.

The Ministers welcomed the agreement reached at Toncontin, Honduras, and confirmed by the Summit of the Central American Presidents at Montelimar, to implement the voluntary demobilisation, repatriation and relocation of the Nicaraguan resistance and of their relatives, which would doubtless constitute a major contribution to democratisation and national reconciliation. They welcomed the call on ONUCA and CIAV to take the necessary steps to ensure the appropriate support for the demobilisation and disarming of members of the resistance within Nicaragua or outside it, and noted that the Central American Presidents agreed that this is to begin forthwith and be completed by 25 April 1990 at the latest.

The Ministers welcomed the appreciation by the Central American Presidents for the cooperation of the government of Honduras for the demobilisation of the Nicaraguan resistance.

9. They expressed their agreement with the call for an immediate and effective end of hostilities in El Salvador, through a frank and constructive dialogue aimed at the integration of the FMLN into the peaceful life of the country, in a climate of safety and respect for their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In this spirit, the Ministers expressed great satisfaction at the signature in Geneva on 4 April 1990, of the document in which there is an agreement to promptly relaunch, under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, the dialogue between the government of El Salvador and the FMLN aimed at achieving, as soon as possible, through frank and open negotiations, the end of the armed conflict in that country.

Furthermore, they agreed that in order to strengthen the peace process and democratisation in the region it was important to comply with all the provisions of part III of the above-mentioned Joint Programme, called : "Assistance in the voluntary demobilisation of the members of the FMLN".

10. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction that the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) and the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) had been successfully established in the Central American countries and were playing a valuable role in the development of the peace process. The Ministers of the European Community reiterated their strong support for the work being done by both ONUCA and the CIAV.

The Ministers welcomed the decision to extend the mandate of ONUCA to contribute to the implementation of the demobilisation process of the Nicaraguan resistance.

The Ministers stressed the importance of the existence of the political verification mechanisms of the Esquipulas Agreements. They also pointed to the potential of the national reconciliation committees to contribute to achieving the objectives of the peace process. In this sense, they welcomed the agreement reached between the National Reconciliation Commission of Guatemala and the UNRG at the Oslo meeting.

11. The Ministers reiterated their conviction that it was essential for all countries with links to and interests in the region to make a genuine contribution towards creating the necessary conditions for establishing peace and democracy and securing economic development in Central America.

In this regard, they reiterated their firm request that regional or extra-regional governments which openly or covertly aid the irregular forces in the area immediately cease that aid, apart from humanitarian assistance which would contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out by the Central American Presidents in the Tela and San Isidro de Coronado summits. The Ministers took note of the appeal in the Montelimar Summit for funds approved for the Nicaraguan resistance to be channelled to CIAV and used for the reintegration into the normal life of the community of those who surrender arms to ONUCA.

They also stressed the importance of the commitments by the Presidents of the Central American countries to prevent the use of their own territory by persons, organisations or groups whose aim is to destabilise the governments of the Central American countries.

12. The Ministers welcomed the decision taken by the five Central American Presidents to promote and set a time-table for the negotiations pending on security, verification and arms control and limitation.

13. The Ministers took note of the decision taken by the Central American Presidents to condemn acts of terrorism in the region and to renew their call for the cessation of all kinds of violent action directly or indirectly harming the civil

population and productive infrastructure and to call for the immediate release of all persons held by irregular forces or terrorist groups.

14. The Ministers welcomed the progress achieved in the process of establishing the Central American Parliament; they expressed their satisfaction concerning the elections that have already been held by Honduras with a view to the establishment of the Parliament, the approval by Nicaragua and the deposit of the instruments of ratification by El Salvador and Guatemala.

They also reaffirmed the importance of the Central American Parliament as a permanent forum in which the peoples of the area could formulate recommendations on the political, economic, social and cultural problems of Central America and confirmed their conviction that the establishment of that Parliament would represent valuable progress for the integration of the region.

The Ministers of the European Community recalled that, in close collaboration with the European Parliament, they maintained their decision to lend their technical and financial support to the process of establishing the Central American Parliament, both in its material and technical organisation and in the holding of the electoral processes. They also expressed the hope that the ratification process of the Central American Parliament would be concluded in the light of the new political atmosphere in the region. They also welcomed the proposal made by Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela which reaffirmed their intention to give their full support to the process of establishment and functioning of the Central American Parliament.

15. The Ministers expressed concern over the acute socio-economic problems of Central America. They recognised that the external debt service for some countries of Central America and forms a heavy burden on their political, economic and social development. They reiterated that all the parties concerned should contribute to the solution of this problem. The Ministers of Central America and requested the support of the Ministers of the European Community in considering in a positive way the renegotiation of this debt.

The Ministers of the European Community reaffirmed their intention to contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America -PEC-, as a way of assisting the efforts being made under the Esquipulas II Agreement.

The Ministers of Central America welcomed the interest of the European Community in supporting that plan as well as the statement it had made at the meeting between the Central American Governments, and the Governments and Cooperating Institutions in the framework of the PEC, held in Geneva, from

4 to 6 July 1989, aimed at backing up the deployment of the necessary efforts for the intensification of cooperation for the region.

The Central American Ministers welcomed the Community's decision to give an adequate and positive answer to the call they formulated at the San Jose V ministerial meeting, to support the efforts which would lead to the restructuring, reactivation and strengthening of the economic integration process of the region, particularly the establishment of a regional system of payments destined to foster interregional trade, which led to the adoption of the corresponding document signed during the present meeting.

The Ministers of the European Community took note with satisfaction of the agreement by the Central American Presidents to hold an economic summit to take political decisions in this field.

16. The Ministers underlined the substantial efforts made in the field of refugees and repatriates within the framework of the "agreements of the International Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Central America" which took place in Guatemala in May 1989 and pointed to the urgent need to give timely impulse to the integrated programmes of assistance and development for returnees and displaced persons which would favour full integration into their respective communities within the institutional and structural context of their countries.

In this respect, the Ministers of the European Community expressed their interest in implementing some of those programmes or projects which are to be defined jointly with the affected countries and the competent international organisations.

17. The parties also welcomed with satisfaction the beginning of the operations by the Central American Environment and Development Committee, which is the first regional cooperation mechanism destined to promote the optimum and rational use of the area's natural resources, as well as the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment in the countries of the area. The European Ministers expressed their interest in supporting these objectives in appropriate ways.

18. The Ministers agreed that the abuse of drugs consumption and its illicit trafficking constitute one of the most serious threats which both the developing countries and the developed countries are being faced with. The Ministers of the European Community and of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela welcomed the Regional Agreement for the eradication of illicit drug trafficking (Montelimar, 3 April 1990) and expressed their strong hope to see its prompt implementation. The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the conclusions reached at the United Nations special session on narcotics, drugs and psychotropic

substances, held from 20 to 23 February 1990. They offered their best wishes for the success of the World Ministerial Summit on Drug Demand Reduction and the Cocaine Threat being held in London on 9 - 11 April 1990.

They reaffirmed the will of their governments to cooperate in combating the drugs threat and to implement the global programme of action adopted by the United Nations special session. They also affirmed their willingness to promote cooperation by the Community and its member States, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela with the countries of the Central American Isthmus in this field.

19. The participants in the Dublin Conference expressed satisfaction at the results of their dialogue and they decided to meet next year in Central America in accordance with the alternation rule.

20. The participants in the Dublin Conference expressed their profound thanks to the Government of Ireland at the initiative of which this Conference was held. They likewise thank the people of Dublin for the excellent and warm welcome as well as for the efficient organisation which led to its very successful outcome.

ANNEX II

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE GENERAL TREATY ON CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND PANAMA RESULTING FROM THE CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES, THE STATES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA AS CO-OPERATING COUNTRIES, HELD IN DUBLIN ON 9 AND 10 APRIL 1990

(SAN JOSE VI)

1. The Community and the Central American countries welcomed the continued intensification of the political dialogue and economic co-operation between the two regions introduced by the 1985 Luxembourg Agreement. They emphasized the need to pursue to a successful conclusion the peace process started at Esquipulas by the Presidents of the countries of the region and reaffirmed the linkage between economic and social development, democracy and peace.

   In this context, both parties reaffirmed the importance they attached to implementing the decisions adopted at Tela, Honduras, on 6 and 7 August 1989, which represented an important step towards a return to peace and political stability in the region.

   Similarly, both parties acknowledged the importance of fulfilling the undertakings which the Presidents of the countries of Central America had given at their summit meeting held at San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica, on 10, 11 and 12 December 1989; they also recalled the appeal which the Central American Presidents had addressed to the international community to step up aid to the region given that international co-operation was a vital parallel factor in political endeavours to achieve peace in the region.

   The Community Ministers congratulated the Central American Governments on the unfolding of the peace process as reflected in free, participatory elections, most recently in Nicaragua, and in the national reconciliation currently in progress in El Salvador.

   The Community reaffirmed its resolve to support the efforts of the Central American countries in the search for peace, the consolidation of democracy and sustained economic development in the region. It accordingly recognized that the Central American economic summit called by the Presidents of the region in their Montelimar Declaration was of the greatest importance and it welcomed the calling of that meeting.

2. The Community and the Central American countries recalled the main objectives and measures laid down in the Luxembourg Agreement. They also reiterated that the endeavours for mutual co-operation would continue along the lines defined at the previous ministerial meetings, especially San José IV in Hamburg and San José V in San Pedro Sula, in particular with regard to emergency measures and measures aimed at reactivating, restructuring and strengthening the process of economic integration in Central America.

   In this connection the Community and its Member States pledged to maintain continuing support for the studies, proposals and measures directed at regional integration and at improved incorporation of the Central American economy into the world economy.

3. The Ministers noted that, despite improved economic results in some countries of the region in 1989, the overall economic situation of the Central American countries remained very serious, with continuing conflicts in parts of the region and the deterioration of certain factors in the international economic climate, in particular the rise in interest rates and the fall in world prices of certain commodities exported by the region.

   In the Ministers' opinion, this situation called for policies aimed at economic adjustment and modernization, the improvement of the socio-economic structures of each country and the strengthening of Central American economic integration.

   The Ministers acknowledged the particular importance of international co-operation in providing support for these endeavours.

4. Both parties welcomed the new stage reached in co-operation between the Community and the Central American countries which made it possible to set up, with financial and technical assistance from the Community, a new regional payments system intended to revive regional trade within Central America.

   The Community's decision to lend its support to this system was a positive step in response to the appeal addressed to it by the region at the San José V ministerial meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, for support for efforts at restructuring, reactivation and strengthening of the process for the economic integration of the region. This decision was consistent with the dialogue between the Community and the Central American countries, the objectives of which are peace, stability, pluralistic democracy and sustained economic and social development in the region.

   The decision provided support for the Central American countries' commitment to the progressive liberalization of regional trade, considered an important factor for the restructuring, reactivation and strengthening of economic integration in the region, the restoring of the convertibility of the Central American countries' currencies and the fuller integration of the region into international trade.

   The Community decision took account of the economic restructuring effort undertaken by some countries in the region and was intended to strengthen the region's will to continue introducing reforms designed to improve the way economies operated.

5. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the level of overall Community aid, which had remained at about ECU 100 million for 1989 despite the technical difficulties encountered in the administration of food aid. They noted that all the operations initiated since the Hamburg ministerial meeting had proceeded satisfactorily.

6. Recalling paragraph 14 of the Joint Political Communiqué, the Ministers of the Community, in close co-operation with the European Parliament, confirmed their decision to lend technical and financial support to the process of establishing the Central American Parliament, both as regards its material and technical organization and in the holding of electoral processes.

7. Both parties expressed their satisfaction regarding the meeting of the International Conference on Refugees in Central America (CIREFCA), held at the end of May 1989 in Guatemala, which had resulted in a co-ordinated plan of action, supported by the international community, to aid refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the region. They considered that the plan formed the reference framework for operations in this field and recalled that implementation of the projects provided for in the plan of action would contribute to the process of peace and reconciliation in the region. Within this framework the Community had already, since June 1989, implemented projects in various Central American countries.

Both parties agreed that recent political events would lead to significant flows of refugees returning to their countries of origin. This situation would require a considerable effort on the part of the whole international community. The next meeting of the CIREFCA, to be held in New York on 25 and 26 June 1990, would be of particular importance, since it would provide an opportunity for the Central American countries to present their priority projects and for the international community to take up the problem. The Community repeated its previous undertakings and said that it was prepared to provide substantial support for the voluntary return of refugees and for their reintegration into their communities of origin.

In accordance with the humanitarian principles to which they attached great importance, both parties confirmed the priority they gave to the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their countries of origin, which was the ideal solution to the problem, or, if the conditions were not suitable for such repatriation, to aid for refugees in the host country. In this context, the Ministers were particularly attentive to the emphasis which the International Conference had placed on the conditions of security, integrity and respect for human rights in which the voluntary return of refugees to their country or place of origin should take place, and agreed to continue the constant monitoring of compliance with these criteria.

The Community will consider the possibility of assisting Nicaragua and El Salvador in projects facilitating job creation to support the resettlement of demobilized irregular groups, the repatriation of skilled people and, insofar as necessary, emergency food aid.

They also acknowledged the need for a further stepping-up of the promotion and implementation of plans for the protection of the environment and integrated development for host communities to the thousands of refugees, returnees or displaced persons in the region.

8. Both parties were pleased with the success of the first meeting, held in Geneva from 4 to 6 July 1989 under the auspices of the United Nations, between the Governments of the Central American countries and the Governments and institutions co-operating in the Special Economic Co-operation Plan for Central America (PEC).

The Central American side particularly appreciated the European Community's attendance at that meeting and its undertaking that it would make all the necessary efforts to intensify co-operation with Central America.

The Community and the Central American countries also welcomed the fact that the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 19 December 1989, entitled "Special Economic Co-operation Plan for Central America", had been adopted by general agreement.

In view of the PEC's positive support for regional development and of the decision adopted on 3 April 1990 by the Central American Presidents at their summit meeting in Montelimar (Nicaragua), the Central American countries urged the Community Ministers to support approaches to the UNDP's Governing Council requesting it, in its next programming period, to allocate to the PEC resources equivalent to or greater than those granted in 1988 for its launching. They also urged them to participate in the sectoral meetings to be held from the second quarter of this year.

In this connection both parties stressed the urgent need for the largest possible number of countries to take an active part and for the international community to be encouraged to make commitments at those sectoral meetings.

9. Both parties welcomed the progress made in the procedures for the accession of several Central American countries to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). This had already resulted in one country from the region acceding to GATT in November 1989.

The Community strongly encouraged the other applicant countries to keep up their efforts and assured the Central American countries of its continued support within GATT in order to further as far as possible their integration into the multilateral trading system in the manner most appropriate to their development requirements and to the efforts being made by them in that connection. The Community side recognized the Central American efforts to act in co-ordination in the Uruguay Round negotiations through the work of the Central American Ambassadors' Group (GRUCA) in Geneva. The Community was prepared, in the context of its current technical assistance programmes in relation to GATT and the Uruguay Round, to examine requests for assistance from the Central American countries.

Both parties stressed the importance of the results already obtained in the GATT Uruguay Round multilateral negotiations. They stressed the positive nature of the Community's decision to apply progressively, even while the Uruguay Round negotiations were continuing, unilateral tariff reductions for certain tropical products of interest to the Central American countries.

The Community and the Central American countries participating in the Uruguay Round negotiations expressed their firm determination to continue their efforts in the current stage of the negotiations in order to reach a substantial, balanced final agreement on the basis of the Punta del Este Declaration and the results of the mid-term review.

10. Both parties recognized the need to give a further boost to trade between the two regions. They noted the positive contribution of the GSP and the improvements made to the System for 1990 in respect of products exported from the region. They also agreed on the usefulness of examining within the Subcommittee on Commodities and Trade Co-operation and in the Joint Committee ways of ensuring that the tariff concessions granted by the Community would achieve their full effect. Here, the Community pointed out that it would be possible to take advantage of the regional cumulative-origin rule within the GSP and that this could be of benefit to the region provided that administrative co-operation conditions were right.

In this context, two technical workshops had been organized in Central America during 1989, enabling Community experts to inform firms of the opportunities available under the GSP and how these could best be exploited. Both parties agreed to continue this effort.

11. The Community informed the Central American side of the progress made in Community integration and the completion of the European single market, which had already stimulated economic growth in the countries of the Community and had led to a significant increase in Community imports in recent years, making it clear that the completion of a large, unified European market would stimulate the world economy.

The Central American side reiterated its concern at the effects which the single market might have in the region and confirmed its interest in the EEC taking steps to provide wide-ranging information on the opportunities for trade open to the region; examples of these were a study promoted by the European Commission in 1990 and the arrangement of information seminars for interested regional groups. At the same time, it asked the Community that there should be analysis, discussion and exchange of views on the matter in the Subcommittee on Commodities and Trade Co-operation.

The Community expressed its conviction that the completion of the single market would have a favourable impact on trade with Central America. It confirmed that it would continue to pay attention to the concerns of the Central American countries in this connection. It was agreed that the matter would be the subject of regular exchanges of views within the Subcommittee on Commodities and Trade Co-operation.

12. Both parties acknowledged that bananas were a commodity of major significance in trade between the two regions and that banana production was a factor of major impact on Central American economies. The Community side, which was currently studying the arrangements to apply to Community imports of bananas with a view to the single market, would endeavour to find a solution that took into consideration the interests of the countries of Central America. In that spirit, it would seek to avoid the new arrangements resulting in a deterioration in exports from these countries.

The two parties restated their concern over the Central American countries' loss of export earnings following the drop in the prices of certain commodities traditionally exported by the region, a concern increased by the region's great dependence on these commodities and the structural nature of the difficulties which those commodities faced, and they again voiced their conviction that it was especially important to encourage steps to diversify exports in order to reduce the level of that dependance. They also emphasized the need to improve the operation of world commodity markets in order to increase their transparency and in particular to improve the operation of the existing international commodity agreements in line with market trends.

The two parties recalled the content of the San José III, IV and V economic communiqués and the Community agreed to devote attention to the problems caused in the region by variations in the volume of earnings from commodity exports. They accordingly agreed to tackle the subject at the next meeting of the Specialist Subcommittee and the fourth meeting of the Joint Committee.

In this context, recognizing the negative effects of the current situation of the coffee market on the economies of coffee-producing countries, the Community reaffirmed the need to resume negotiations in the International Coffee Organization as soon as possible in order to arrive at a new and better Agreement which resolves the problems raised by the 1983 Agreement, while being fair to both producers and consumers.

The two parties emphasized the need for the Central American countries to widen the range of their exportable goods and their markets. That process should include both diversification of production, which was currently over-reliant on traditional tropical agricultural products, and greater involvement in the processing, marketing, transport and distribution of such products.

13. The States of Central America and of the Community took the view that external debt had become a critical problem for the development of the Central American countries. The burdensome debt-servicing obligations, which had become even more onerous following the rise in international interest rates, meant a major reduction in those countries' importing capacity and in the level of their investments, jeopardizing even further their development and growth.

In view of the scale of the problem, the Ministers of Central America and of the Community agreed to continue their efforts to implement the international debt strategy in conjunction with all other parties concerned. That strategy had enabled a balanced solution to be found to the debt problem of one of the countries in the region, the restructuring policy steadfastly implemented by that country having led to considerable commitments on the part of the multilateral financial institutions, many governments and the creditor banks in order to arrive at that solution.

The Community Ministers stated that they were prepared to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, the necessary support to ensure that the strategy was fully applied to any Central American country which adopted the economic restructuring policies approved by the international community.

14. Emphasizing the far-reaching implications of the Community's decision to devote, from 1989, substantial resources to the setting-up of the regional payments system, the Ministers examined thoroughly the conditions needed for the satisfactory implementation of this project and the other aspects of the programme presented by the Central American side at the San José V Conference in San Pedro Sula aimed at strengthening the regional integration process.

With regard to the payments system, both sides repeated that, in accordance with the financing agreement signed in Dublin on 9 April 1990, on the occasion of the ministerial conference, the Community contribution to the system was based on the understanding that the Central American side would do everything to ensure maximum effectiveness, and in particular that it would implement on time its commitments on the progressive dismantling of obstacles to regional trade.

The Central American countries reiterated their commitment to the project and said that efforts were being made to enable it to be implemented.

Accordingly, and in the light of the outcome of the evaluations to be made of the system as regards honouring the commitments entered into and the correct functioning of the system, the Community would give favourable consideration to continued financial support for the two years following the first year of operation.

15. On the subject of special action to aid the countries with a lower level of development having chronic regional trade deficits (Honduras and Nicaragua), the two parties recognized that the harmonious development of regional trade and the long-term balance of the regional payments system called for the sustained strengthening of the export capability of those two countries. They noted the statement by the Commission of the European Communities that the studies relating to a project directed towards that objective were at a very advanced stage and that a financing proposal would very soon be submitted to the relevant Community bodies, which would examine it in a constructive spirit.

16. Both parties re-affirmed that the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) was an essential instrument in the region's development and emphasized the need for Central American governments to give it their firm backing.

The parties accordingly welcomed the progress made in the policy of strengthening the legal and institutional, financial, operational and political support aspects of the CABEI, as borne out by the decisions adopted by the Assembly of Governors in September 1989 and January 1990. They considered it essential that those decisions should be implemented to enable the Bank to play the leading role reserved for it in the process of economic recovery in the region.

For its part, the Community had in 1989 continued its contribution towards strengthening the CABEI by deciding to grant a further ECU 6 million to the PAPIC programme of loans to SMEs, which was managed by the CABEI, and by granting the CABEI technical assistance aimed at strengthening its organization. To the Community's contribution to the PAPIC should be added the contributions made by the Community's Member States.

The Ministers noted with satisfaction that the new resources made available to the PAPIC programme would enable a steady and substantial flow of loans to continue to be made to SMEs in the region for several years.

Moreover, the Community had asked the Commission to examine the work done on strengthening the CABEI's institutions and to prepare a report on the subject with a view to the possible participation of those Community Member States which so desired in an increase in the Bank's capital, following the entry into force of the Protocol of Amendment to the Articles of Agreement, which made it possible for countries outside the region to become full members of the CABEI.

The Central American Ministers again expressed great eagerness that the European Investment Bank should contribute to the financing of regional projects of special significance for their countries or other forms of co-operation which promote development in the region.

17. The Central American countries pointed to the need for financial resources to support efforts being made by the Central American countries to stabilize the balance of payments position. With that in mind, they reported on action undertaken to strengthen both financially and institutionally the Central American Fund for Monetary Stabilization under the Special Plan for Economic Co-operation with Central America (PEC). The Central American side intended to keep the Community informed of this process, with a view to considering possibilities for co-operation when appropriate.

18. The Ministers recalled the statements made at the San José V ministerial meeting and reiterated the need to continue supporting the Central American regional bodies in the important work of restructuring, reactivating and strengthening the process of integration in Central America.

19. Both parties examined their co-operation as a whole and the outlook for co-operation in the future, in particular in view of the outcome of the Joint Committee which met in Brussels in June 1989.

The parties recognized that the programme of restructuring, reactivation and strengthening of regional integration, presented by the Central American side at San Pedro Sula, would contribute very significantly to the achievement of the regional objectives of stimulating their economies and strengthening the basic instruments of the Central American integration process and facilitate the region's integration into new world trade patterns. They therefore confirmed their wish to give the highest priority to this programme. They believed that the programme would take up a large part of the Community's co-operation resources; nevertheless, the Central American Ministers asked that the Community should give adequate support to future programmes and projects consonant with it. At the same time, regional or national projects should continue.

In this context, the Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the progress to date of the regional programmes and projects already being implemented with support from the Community and its Member States, in particular in the fields of food security, health, the strengthening of co-operatives, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, agricultural research and air navigation. They were also pleased with the progress made on transfrontier development projects, especially the Trifinio Plan.

The Central American side referred to the value of the Panama-Costa Rica border development project, for which initial appraisals had been carried out. The Community stated that the implementation of this project would require a series of agreements to be concluded between the two Governments on, among other things, transfrontier movement. The Community would also look into the possibility of giving its support to the Republic of Panama's efforts to join, gradually but steadily, in the processes of regional integration.

20. Both parties emphasized the interest of continuing the efforts already underway in the field of scientific and technical co-operation. Those efforts would be stimulated by the work of the ad hoc Subcommittee on Scientific and Technical Co-operation set up at the last meeting of the Joint Committee.

Both parties recognized the importance of the measures undertaken, such as grants, research projects and seminars in the field of medicine, agriculture, geology and biotechnology.

The Central American side saw it as important that co-operation in science and technology be formulated in accordance with regional priorities so that it led to a strengthening of local scientific and technological capacity.

Both parties agreed that a meeting of the relevant Subcommittee should be convened at the earliest opportunity in order to determine the co-operation programme for 1990-1991, in accordance with regional priorities and with Community policy in this field.

21. Both parties expressed their interest in transition to the second stage of the programme for co-operation on energy in productive activities in the rural sector. The completion of the feasibility studies conducted by the regional technical secretariat had enabled priority energy co-operation projects to be selected, encouraging the efficient use of forestry resources and hydroelectric potential, inter alia.

22. The Community and the countries of Central America undertook to step up their co-operation in protecting the environment in Central America with a view to supporting, by carrying out studies or pilot projects, the definition and the implementation of a strategy for safeguarding the region's natural resources that would achieve a fair balance between the interests of local people, the requirements of development and the need to preserve Central America's natural heritage, in particular its rain forest.

The Community and the Central American countries agreed to ensure that concern for safeguarding the environment both in worldwide and regional terms was adequately reflected in the various aspects of their co-operation. In this context, both sides welcomed the start of operations by the Central American Environment and Development Committee (CCAD), the first regional co-operation mechanism for promoting the optimum and rational use of natural resources and the protection and improvement of the environment of the countries of the region.

In view of the importance of the CCAD's activities, the Central American side asked the Community to offer it technical and financial assistance enabling it to implement the programmes drawn up by the Committee.

The Community said it would duly examine the requests submitted to it for measures corresponding to the above objectives.

The parties would take an active part in drafting a World Convention on Climate.

23. With a view to the essential diversification of production in the Central American countries, both parties emphasized the development of industrial co-operation between the two regions, as part of a strategy of broadening the base for exports from the Central American Isthmus.

Both sides recalled the statements made by the Central American countries at the third meeting of the Joint Co-operation Committee at which it was recognized that industrial co-operation was a priority for the region and that it was of special relevance as part of the natural follow-up to the programme for reactivating trade.

Both sides also recalled that, at that meeting, the Community had said it was prepared to support a programme of industrial co-operation for the countries of the region and that the Joint Committee had proposed to set up a technical working party to examine the matter.

The Ministers expressed their conviction that in the field of industrial development co-operation the main responsibilities fell to economic agents themselves and that the role of the public authorities was to encourage, instigate and facilitate the conclusion of investment projects. With this in mind, the Central American side reported the setting-up of the Interinstitutional Group for the Industrial Sector (GISI), consisting of representatives of private-sector business and of regional organizations, in order to encourage industrial promotion and development in the region. Both sides acknowledged that it was essential to create a climate of confidence which would attract European investment to the region. The establishment of peace, the consolidation of democracy, the maintenance of stable institutions and sound economic policies were absolutely essential factors for creating such a climate of confidence.

The Ministers agreed that the countries of the region had the primary responsibility for creating a favourable environment to attract foreign investment. In this context the Community welcomed the accession of certain Central American countries to the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) set up under the auspices of the World Bank and stressed the importance of continuing on this course, notably by means of bilateral investment-protection agreements.

The Community recalled the various initiatives taken in the field of industrial co-operation in 1989, such as the signing of an agreement making possible the use of the International Investment Partners financial facility with Costa Rica, various trade promotion operations, expert-training seminars for Central American managers and preparatory studies aimed at diversifying exports; these initiatives were in addition to the other programmes mentioned above.

24. As agreed at the last meeting of the Joint Committee and having regard to the importance of the agricultural sector for the political stability and economic and social development of the region, both sides highlighted their preparedness to strengthen their co-operation in that sector, striving inter alia to consolidate agro-industrial development processes.

25. With regard to other areas of co-operation, both sides emphasized the mutual interest of promoting co-operation in the sectors of tourism and fisheries, while taking environmental aspects into account. These two sectors were well suited to the establishment of joint ventures between European and Central American partners, since the two sides' contributions could complement each other particularly well.

26. Both sides also welcomed the efforts made concerning the development of human resources, with most Community co-operation projects including a major training element.

They also stressed the positive experience of recent years as regards the training of senior Central American civil servants.

The parties were in agreement that mutual co-operation programmes planned in future should give special consideration to the needs of Central American indigenous communities.

Recalling the importance of the participation of women, with equal rights and responsibilities, in the development process, the Ministers agreed that, in conducting their co-operation, and in particular in operations aimed at developing human resources, all opportunities to enhance the role of women should be actively sought out and utilized.

27. The Ministers took note that, in accordance with the undertaking given by the Ministers of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela a year ago at the San José V meeting to contribute to the objectives of the economic dialogue between the European Community and Central America, the Ministers of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela distributed to the other participants in the Conference a paper entitled "Co-operation by Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela with Central America". This provided an inventory, an assessment and an outline of prospects regarding those countries' co-operation with the Central American region.

The Ministers of the Central American countries welcomed the tabling of this paper and expressed their willingness to put into practice the proposals contained in it.

The Ministers called on the European Commission to seek with Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela means of co-ordinating Community aid with aid from those three countries for the countries of the Central American Isthmus, with the aim of increasing the overall effectiveness of co-operation.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 22, 92, 103, 104, 112, 113
and 142 of the preliminary list*
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO PEACE
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF
UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND EFFECTIVE
FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED
PURSUANT TO SUCH INSTRUMENTS
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR
DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE
ELECTIONS
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBORLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 1 May 1990 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the attached extract from Country Reports on Human Rights Practices For 1989, published by the Department of State of the United States of America, which contains information on the situation concerning human rights in Somalia. I have underlined passages of special relevance.

* A/45/50.

In view of the importance of this information, I have the honour to request that this attached extract be issued as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 22, 92, 103, 104, 112, 113 and 142 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Johanan BEIN
Ambassador
Acting Permanent Representative

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ANNEX*

101st Congress
2d Session

JOINT COMMITTEE PRINT

COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 1989

REPORT

SUBMITTED TO THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AND THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
U.S. SENATE

BY THE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 116(d) AND 502B(b) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

FEBRUARY 1990

Printed for the use of the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively

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* Underlining has been added by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations.

SOMALIA

Somalia is a one-party state ruled since 1969 by President Mohamed Siad Barre. He presides over the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP), the sole legal political party, and the Government through the presidentially appointed Council of Ministers. The President's clan, the Marehan, holds key positions, e.g., the President's eldest son, Abdurahman Mohamed Siad "Maslah", is Commander of the Armed Forces. A National People's Assembly, last elected on a single slate in 1984, is subordinate to the executive. Civil conflict continued during 1989, with an outbreak of rioting in the capital, Mogadishu, followed by official reprisals. Troops mutinied in the southern, central, and northern regions, and political ferment intensified.

The Somali Armed Forces (SAF) number over 35,000 troops. Internal security responsibilities, including for coping with the civil conflict, are shared by the National Army, the military police (MP), the Defense Intelligence Security Agency ("Hangaash"), the National Police, and the National Security Service (NSS). During 1989 army combat units and military police resorted to attacks on civilian villages, roundups, and summary executions as means of combating the antiregime Somali National Movement (SNM), other dissident groups, and rioters. Reformist groups made efforts during 1989 to curb the security services' arbitrary powers of detention, but were only partially successful.

Clans continued their age-old competition for waterholes and grazing lands, and at the national level the governing elite, based on the Marehan subclan, struggled with other clans for control of the country's few resources. Most of Somalia's estimated 8 million people manage a bare subsistence as herdsmen or farmers. The modern sector of the agricultural economy consists mainly of banana plantations located in the south. The chief exports are livestock and bananas. Mogadishu now has a population exceeding 1.5 million, many of whom are unemployed migrants from the countryside. Increasingly straitened conditions in the capital contributed to an increase in crime and to the potential for civil disorder, while life in the north has been severely disrupted by the civil conflict.

Despite some limited progress in the first half of the year, human rights in Somalia suffered sharp setbacks during 1989. A State Department-sponsored study (the Gersony report) documented massive human rights violations, committed by both government and, to a lesser extent, SNM forces in the 1988-89 fighting; the SAF murdered at least 5,000 unarmed civilians between May 1988 and March 1989. In the first half of 1989, the Government did release most political prisoners, including those whose cases had been publicized in the West, and strengthened the constitutional prohibition against arbitrary detention. However, on July 9, an unknown gunman shot and killed the Roman Catholic Bishop of Mogadishu. The Government detained for investigation several prominent Islamic leaders and other critics. On July 14, rioting broke out in Mogadishu as a result of the detentions, and several police officers were killed. The police and MP's responded to the killings by firing on the crowds. At least 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured in fighting throughout the city. (One human rights group claims 450 were killed.) On subsequent days and nights military units detained about 2,000 people, searched and looted houses, assaulted and sometimes shot

people in their homes, and summarily executed at least 46 young men, mainly Isaaks, at a nearby beach. In response to the growing political discontent, the President announced that multiple political parties would be allowed to organize and to contest elections to a new People's Assembly within 16 months. He offered to negotiate with dissident organizations, but his initial attempts had been rebuffed at year's end.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Section 1 Respect for the Integrity of the Person, Including Freedom from:

a. Political and Other Extrajudicial Killing

During 1989 extrajudicial killing was employed as a method of warfare in Somalia's civil conflict. Government forces were the worst though not the only offenders. While some incidents could be attributed to poor leadership and training, the pattern of raids on civilian villages, reprisal killings, and summary executions suggested that extrajudicial killing had official sanction (see Section 1.g., for details). Following the extensive July disorders and killings, the President formed an investigating committee, but at the end of 1989 the committee had not released its findings, and the Government had not brought those responsible to justice. There have been persistent reports that the perpetrators were members of the Marehan subclan (Rer Koshin) to which the President and his family belong.

b. Disappearance

Disappearances continued to occur in Somalia during 1989. They were hard to distinguish from arbitrary arrests and detentions (see Section 1.d.) and extrajudicial killings, because these are not acknowledged by the authorities. For example, an interpreter employed by the U.S. Office of Military Cooperation has been missing since July 17 and is presumed to have been among the victims of the shootings at the beach.

c. Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Torture is forbidden by Article 27 of the Constitution. Senior government officials repeatedly deny that it is practiced as a government policy and, in fact, instances of torture appeared to decrease in response to a governmental reform effort and international pressure. Some recently released short-term detainees complained, however, that they were subjected to forms of torture such as the "Mig," in which their hands and feet were tied together behind their backs with a rope, which was pulled tight so that the body was arched backwards, to resemble the swept-back wings of a Mig aircraft. The Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture continued to report seeing torture victims from Somalia.

Harsh prison conditions do not provide sanitation, adequate water, or medical care. Prisoners receive the absolute minimum of food necessary for survival because it is customary for food to be supplied from outside by their families. Amnesty International (AI) stated that the conditions at the maximum security prisons of Lanta Bur and Labatan Jirow, where political prisoners are often held incommunicado, were particularly life-threatening.

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Mistreatment of detainees sometimes results from negligence. In October, for example, at least 11 youths died of suffocation and dozens of others were hospitalized after police locked them in a steel shipping container. The authorities arrested the police official allegedly responsible for this incident.

d. Arbitrary Arrest, Detention, or Exile

Although Article 26 of the Constitution accords citizens the right to be formally charged and to receive a speedy trial, the Criminal Code was modified in 1970 to exempt crimes involving national security from time limits and rules of procedure. The Government has repeatedly shown an exceptionally broad interpretation of what constitutes national security and has used its powers in an arbitrary manner to detain, often incommunicado, suspected political opponents or critics. In the first half of 1989, in response to growing criticism of such abuses, the Government revised Article 26 of the Constitution to limit arbitrary detention. As a result, the security services in the early months of 1989 detained fewer persons and usually released them if evidence against them was lacking. (Normally, the National Security Court--see Section 1.e.--gives investigators a fixed time limit, with necessary extensions, to complete an investigation.)

Following the disturbances in July, however, mass detentions were resumed under a presidential decree (as provided for in Articles 82 and 83 of the Constitution) imposing emergency rule throughout the country. Many detentions seemed to have only an incidental investigative purpose, the main aim being to frighten possible opponents of the regime and silence criticism. Most of the detainees were released after a few weeks in military camps.

Prominent Somalis arrested in the investigation of the Bishop's assassination in July included the lawyer Dr. Ismail Jimale Ossoble, chief counsel for the defense in the February 1988 national security trial; Abdulkadir Aden Abdulle Osman, son of Somalia's first president; Sheikh Abdirahman Sheikh Ali Sufi, a senior religious leader; and three other imams. Dr. Jimale Ossoble and Mr. Osman were released in October 1989. The sheiks remained in detention at the end of the year. Also under detention were former cabinet ministers Aden Nur and Ba'adleh, who were arrested in July.

The number of detainees is difficult to estimate because the Government does not disclose such information, detainees are often held incommunicado, and at least 9 entities (National Police, NSS, Hangaash, military police, SPSP, the militia, the Custodial Corps, regional governors, and district commissioners) have the power to detain. The number probably fluctuated considerably during 1989, as the Government first released most detainees, then arrested about 2,000 people in July, and then released most of them after a few weeks. In conjunction with the October 21 national day celebrations, the President amnestied over 1,160 detainees and prisoners. Most of these detainees had been held on criminal charges, but some may have been detained for minor political offenses such as making "tribalistic" remarks.

The Somali security forces also practice the taking of hostages in interclan conflicts. In disputes between rival clans, the Government may order the arrest of senior members

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of both clans in order to compel an end to the violence. The most recent example of this practice occurred in June when a minority Darod clan began attacking members of the Hawiya clan in and around Mogadishu. The Government arrested members of both clans and dictated peace terms between the parties; when peace was assured the hostages were released.

The Government does not practice exile as a means of political control. With regard to forced or compulsory labor, see Section 6.c.

e. Denial of Fair Public Trial

The Somali judicial system includes civil and criminal courts, and a separate National Security Court. Lawyers are permitted to represent suspects before the National Security Court, but proceedings are usually held in camera. Although nominally independent, the judiciary is in fact not distinguishable from the executive, which reviews and controls judicial decisions. All judges in the Supreme Court and lower courts are appointed by the President with the advice of the higher judicial council, of which the President is chairman. Judges of the National Security Court generally are military officers posted to the Court.

Law No. 54 of 1970 provides the death penalty for political offenses "against national security," defined as behavior "which may be considered prejudicial to the maintenance of peace, order and good government." Among the 20 offenses punishable by death are "organizing a subversive association" (Article 3), "exploiting religion for creating national disunity" (Article 12), and "publishing antistate propaganda" (Article 18).

In the civil and criminal courts, legal assistance is provided, and there are established rules of evidence. There are no religious courts in Somalia. In civil proceedings relating to family matters, such as marriage and inheritance, the judge may cite prevailing Islamic Shari'a law in rendering decisions. The right to appeal exists in criminal and civil cases but not in cases heard by the National Security Court. For persons convicted by the National Security Court, the only avenue for clemency is through the Politburo of the SRSP.

Only one trial before the National Security Court received publicity in 1989. This was the November conviction and sentencing to death of five persons accused of embezzling funds from the Commercial and Savings Bank. These were the first death sentences announced in Somalia in over a year. It appeared that some of those convicted were still at large. At year's end none of the death sentences had been carried out. By midyear most political prisoners had been released. Most of the thousands of persons detained in July were also released. Few if any detainees were tried and convicted of political offenses.

f. Arbitrary Interference With Privacy, Family, Home, or Correspondence

Under the umbrella of the National Security Act, the security forces routinely search the homes of citizens for weapons and printed material critical of the Government. These searches are carried out without a warrant or the consent of the searched. No probable cause is required (see Section 1.g.). The telephone conversations and mail of suspected persons are

monitored, and anyone in the country suspected of political activity is subject to surveillance.

g. Use of Excessive Force and Violations of Humanitarian Law in Internal Conflicts

About 500,000 people fled the outbreak of fighting in northern Somalia in 1988. A U.S. Government-sponsored 1989 study (the Gersony Report), based on 300 interviews with displaced persons and refugees (many of them eyewitnesses to killings), "conservatively estimated that at least 5,000 unarmed civilians were purposefully murdered by the SAF between May 1988 and March 1989," when the civilians no longer represented a threat to the Somali Armed Forces (SAF) forces. The study also found that the SNM combatants killed hundreds of unarmed civilians in similar indiscriminate fashion. Further, the study found that both sides systematically engaged in grave violations of the internationally protected status of Ethiopian refugees in the refugee camps administered by the United Nations in the area. The Government forcibly conscripted Ethiopian refugees from the camps into the SAF after May 1988. The SNM conducted systematic violent attacks against these camps, killing 400 or more refugees in the process (see also Section 2.d.).

Some of these abuses, apparently sanctioned by the opposing leaderships, were consistent with traditional patterns of clan warfare in an arid land. One of the basic tactics of Somali army forces, for example, was to control the waterholes and deny their use to the SNM. The SNM similarly prevented the Government from repairing the pumping station which once supplied water to Hargeisa. When combating rebels, mutineers, and bandits in the central regions of the country, Somali troops took reprisals against certain villages by driving off livestock and burning houses.

Documented incidents included:

SNM members of the Isaak clan, in fighting around the northern town of Erigavo in March, killed a number of unresisting civilians. Progovernment militias then drove the SNM out of Erigavo and killed about 200 Isaak civilian inhabitants of the town.

Marehan soldiers carried out reprisal killings of about 30 Isaak civilians after a landmine explosion on the Burao-Berbera road in May.

Reacting to rioting in Mogadishu on July 14, military police fired into crowds, killing bystanders as well as rioters. Some innocent persons were killed in their homes by stray rounds. During searches of Mogadishu neighborhoods on subsequent nights, security forces looted houses and assaulted--and occasionally shot--their inhabitants.

In retaliation for the killing of some of their comrades in the July 14 riots, members of the Armed Forces abducted 47 Somali men, took them to an isolated section of beach, and shot them. Reports from witnesses and one survivor indicate that the targets of this execution were members of the Isaak clan, randomly selected and identified by their accents.

In late September, when government forces attacked rebels of the Ogadeni clan near the Kenyan border, troops overran the village of Dobli and killed many of the inhabitants.

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In November, when government forces attacked several villages near Galkayo in central Somalia in reprisal for a mutiny there, troops reportedly killed a number of civilians outside of immediate combat zones.

There have been other unverified reports of summary executions of rebels in the northern and southwestern regions of the country and of massacres committed by SNM fighters against non-Isaak villages in the north.

The situation remained volatile at the end of 1989. According to the Gersony report, the Government has armed clan-based civilian militias which are not under the effective command of either the SAF or clan elders. These militias were an additional element of continuing instability and lawlessness. Information is lacking on the fate of prisoners taken in Somalia's civil conflict. In general, it seemed that few prisoners were taken. Rebel forces welcomed deserters from government ranks.

Section 2 Respect for Civil Liberties

a. Freedom of Speech and Press

Although freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution, that right continued to be severely abridged in practice. NSS informants frequented public places listening for expressions of antigovernment sentiment; persons were sometimes held responsible for opinions expressed in personal conversations as well as in public forums.

The Government continued to own and operate the radio and television as well as the country's six newspapers. No publications other than those authorized by the Government were legally distributed, and possession of unauthorized newspapers and journals has brought prison sentences of from 5 to 15 years. All printed, taped, and filmed material entering Somalia must be approved by the National Censorship Board. The material is checked for "obscene" as well as politically objectionable content. Academic freedom was not permitted; a Somali law professor with an evident interest in the local human rights situation was detained for several months in 1988 and 1989.

Information on the situation in Somalia was difficult to obtain because throughout the first half of 1989 the Government refused to issue visas to foreign journalists. Several European journalists were permitted to enter the country in the latter part of 1989. An American journalist arrived in Mogadishu in December for a 1-week visit.

b. Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association

Although politics is a common topic at informal gatherings of Somalis, and although Article 24 of the Constitution guarantees the right to participate in or organize an assembly or demonstration, in practice the Government only permitted meetings which it sponsored to advance government purposes. Political protest meetings were not permitted.

Freedom of association, though not specifically mentioned, is implicitly provided for in the Constitution, which entitles every citizen to participate fully in political, economic, social, and cultural activities. In practice, however, there was no freedom of association in Somalia in 1989. Having a

business relationship with a person under suspicion was enough to attract the attention of the security services. In March a restaurant owner was detained by the NSS when his restaurant was host to a party for former political prisoners. The only organizations allowed to exist are those approved by the Government and the SRSP.

For a discussion of freedom of association as it applies to labor unions, see Section 6.a.

c. Freedom of Religion

Islam is the state religion and nearly 100 percent of the population is Muslim, predominantly of the Sunni sect. The Constitution states, however, that every person shall be entitled to profess any religion or creed. In practice this means that members of religions other than Islam may practice their faiths but may not proselytize. Mogadishu has a Roman Catholic community numbering about 2,000, which was established during the period of Italian colonial rule. Both Protestant and Catholic houses of worship operate openly. No other religious group has significant representation in Somalia. Christian charitable organizations operate in Somalia but confine their activities to technical assistance.

There is no evidence that the July 9 killing of the Catholic Bishop of Mogadishu was religiously motivated. Nevertheless, the assassination inflamed Muslim-Christian relations. Tension between the communities increased in the first half of 1989, as a revivalist spirit spread within the Muslim community, and some imams accused Christians of proselytizing. During the July disturbances in Mogadishu, there was some violence against Protestant medical missionaries and other persons perceived to be Christians.

Many in the Muslim community attribute Somalia's difficulties to lax observance of Islam. Such views, in addition to raising popular anxiety over Christian proselytizing, also tend to set the Islamic community in opposition to the Government, which has secular roots and a long history of antagonism toward religious leaders. The Government is sensitive to this trend, because it threatens to unite disparate opposition groups under the banner of Islam. Therefore, since 1985 the Government has licensed all mosques and Koranic schools, and since 1986 it has approved all imams and paid them a salary. Tensions between the Government and the Islamic community came to the fore in July, following the Catholic Bishop's assassination. In the investigation of that crime, security forces detained several outspoken imams. These acts provoked more antigovernment criticism within the mosques. The police, alerted to expect trouble on Friday, July 14, ringed the mosques, entered some, attempted to prevent antigovernment sermons, and tried to arrest additional imams. Widespread rioting and many deaths ensued.

Ethiopian Christian refugees sometimes claim that they face persecution in Somalia, but apparently that persecution is based more on nationality than religion.

d. Freedom of Movement Within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration, and Repatriation

Police and military checkpoints control travel between towns, in border areas, and in areas of interclan violence. There is, however, no requirement to report residence to the police

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or other government authority. Many Somalis are nomads, and the nomadic tradition remains strong. Travel within Somalia is a freely practiced right. In general, there are no restrictions on international travel for those who can afford it. Passports are available to all citizens and to ethnic Somalis who reside abroad; they generally are not denied on political grounds.

However, the Government restricted the travel of some former detainees and political prisoners by denying them passports or stopping them at the airport. Former political prisoners Suleiman Nuh Ali and Abdi Ismail Yunis were prevented from attending the Muslim pilgrimage. Their passports were confiscated when they tried to depart Somalia at Mogadishu airport. At the end of 1989 their passports had not been returned.

Somalis who have emigrated are generally permitted to return; in 1989 President Siad repeatedly promised amnesty to antigovernment Somalis returning from foreign countries. Nevertheless, based on the experience of previous years, some Somalis remained abroad because they feared possible imprisonment for opposition activity if they returned.

There have been massive displacements of persons as a result of the civil conflict. Many persons have fled to Mogadishu where the population has swollen to over 1.5 million. The Isaak population of northern Somalia has been driven into remote rural areas, and many hundreds of thousands are living in exile in Ethiopia and Djibouti, and fewer in Kenya. Within Hargeisa, about 90 percent of the Isaak homes, businesses, and property have been destroyed or severely damaged. The economic life of northern Somalia has been profoundly disrupted. At the end of 1989, the best estimates indicated that there were 324,000 displaced persons and refugees from Somalia (mainly Isaaks) in Ethiopia and 30,000 in Djibouti.

The Government reports that there are 837,000 Ethiopian refugees in Somalia, but outside observers, including from the United Nations, indicated that about half that number remained in refugee camps at the end of 1989. Conscription of refugees into the Somali army continued in 1989, in violation of international covenants. Spontaneous repatriation of refugees to Ethiopia continued throughout the year, and tripartite negotiations involving Somalia, Ethiopia, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) made progress on arrangements for officially sponsored voluntary repatriation. In addition to the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) agreed to participate.

Section 3 Respect for Political Rights: The Right of Citizens to Change Their Government

Citizens have neither the legal right nor the ability peacefully to change their government or the form of their government. The SRSP is the only legal party; opposition groups and criticism of the Government are illegal. However, in August President Siad Barre announced that multiple political parties would be allowed to contest elections to a new People's Assembly by the end of 1990. In November a committee of lawyers began drafting proposed changes in the Constitution that would remove the SRSP from its leading role in state and society, permit the operation of multiple parties, and allow operation of a free press and other institutions of an open society. At the end of 1989 no

practical steps had been taken to implement these proposals. In the present governmental structure, the National People's Assembly has very limited powers.

For many Somalis the traditional clan system is the accepted vehicle of political expression. President Siad Barre and other officials consult frequently with clan elders. Since 1982, however, President Siad has been widely perceived as relying on and furthering the interests of his family and his Marehan subclan by playing off other clans aginst one another. This reliance on the Marehan accelerated in 1989, as the President appointed his son as head of the Armed Forces, another family member as Chief of Police, and Marehan officers as commanders of most military units.

Section 4 Governmental Attitude Regarding International and Nongovernmental Investigation of Alleged Violations of Human Rights

During the first half of 1989, the Government showed a willingness to cooperate with international and other human rights organizations. A visit by Amnesty International, proposed by President Siad in 1988, took place from June 24 to July 2. Officials arranged the meetings requested by the two-man delegation, including with former political prisoners, Prime Minister Samantar, and President Siad. However, a week after the AI delegation's departure, the Bishop of Mogadishu was killed and civil unrest and summary executions followed; and AI has not been invited to return.

The Government has continued cooperation with the ICRC, which is now operating an emergency hospital in Berbera and making preparations to aid in refugee repatriation.

Although there are no human rights organizations as such in Somalia, the Association of Somali Lawyers concerns itself with human rights issues.

Section 5 Discrimination Based on Race, Sex, Religion, Language, or Social Status

Because Somalia is racially homogeneous, there is little racial discrimination as such. Animosities and rivalries based on bloodline and clan affiliation, however, are a fundamental problem at the root of the country's continuing civil conflict. Many persons have capitalized on their clan and family affiliations to gain economic advantage or privilege. The clan differences also have a north versus south aspect. Members of the Isaak clan, who form the bulk of SNM supporters, are increasingly discriminated against because most of them are perceived as opponents of the Government. Although not all Isaaks are persecuted, a disproportionate number of political detainees and victims of extrajudicial executions (e.g., almost all of the 46 in Mogadishu in July) were of that clan.

By tradition Somali women suffer discrimination in education, work, and family matters. Female enrollments in school remain far below those for males at all levels of education for traditional and cultural reasons. The payment of dowry and bride wealth are common marriage customs. Divorce laws and practices strongly favor the male partner.

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The Siad Barre Government has historically supported women's rights. In the face of conservative opposition, it rewrote laws to increase women's rights to inherit and own property, made women the legal equals of men, and perhaps most importantly it outlawed female circumcision. The Government's campaign against female circumcision, led by the Somali Women's Democratic Organization of the SRSP, continued to make progress in 1989. Although the practice remained common, especially in rural areas, pharaonic circumcisions (the most extreme and dangerous form of female genital mutilation) became less common.

Domestic violence against women is not a significant social problem in Somalia. There are several interlocking cultural and economic reasons why such practices as wife beating are relatively uncommon. One is that Somalis, being Muslims, do not generally drink alcohol. A second reason is that Somali marriages are contractual, with the wife's relatives prepared to enforce the agreement that she will be treated with dignity. Wife beating carries a stigma which makes it difficult for divorced wife beating males to remarry. Finally economic conditions, which have made it increasingly difficult for men to have more than one or at most two wives, also tend to curtail violence against women. (A veteran police officer, asked whether wife beating was a problem, said that in the days before independence it was common for men to have three or four wives and to treat the less favored of them as beasts of burden, beating the ones who faltered or were lazy. He said that young men of the present generation cannot afford more than one wife, and therefore they are constrained to treat her with respect.)

The civil conflict has, however, had a profoundly negative impact, and it appears that rape by government forces and others has occurred fairly often.

Section 6 Worker Rights

a. The Right of Association

Workers are not free to form independent unions. There is a single labor confederation, the government-controlled General Federation of Somali Trade Unions (GFSTU), is run by government-appointed officials. The GFSTU's main function is to monitor the work force and provide a conduit for worker grievances. The GFSTU is a member of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity and the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. Somalia has been a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) since 1960, but has ratified neither ILO Convention 87 regarding freedom of association nor Convention 98 on collective bargaining.

Strikes are outlawed, and organizing a strike is legally punishable by death. Nevertheless, there was a short transportation strike in 1987, and strikes by quarry workers in 1989. The Government took no action against the striking workers.

b. The Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively

The right to organize does not appear to be infringed by employers. Because the GFSTU speaks for the Government, its dealings with employers on wages, hours, and working

conditions tend to resemble binding arbitration rather than collective bargaining. Some negotiation between employers and employees goes on outside the union framework. Given the official status of the GFSTU, antiunion discrimination appears to be a moot question. Labor courts adjudicate employer-employee disputes with relative impartiality. There are no export processing zones in Somalia.

c. Forced or Compulsory Labor

Forced or compulsory labor is prohibited by law, but the Government and party occasionally organize campaigns of "voluntary labor" to clean streets or boost production of state-owned factories.

d. Minimum Age for Employment of Children

The minimum age for the employment of children is 15, and persons under 18 are not permitted to work at night or in certain hazardous occupations. The law imposing the requirements, however, is not effectively implemented, and there is considerable child labor on the margins of the wage economy. Children sell cigarettes on the street, carry bags in the market, and watch and clean cars to support themselves and to supplement family incomes.

e. Acceptable Conditions of Work

Somalia has comprehensive labor legislation setting minimum safety and health standards for the workplace. These are applicable to the small, modern wage sector of an economy that is predominantly pastoral and agricultural and are not normally enforced. In theory the workday is 8 hours per day, 6 days per week, with limits on overtime hours. There is no legal minimum wage. Workers are entitled to paid holidays, annual leave, holiday bonuses, and a variety of fringe benefits. In reality, however, the salary scale is extremely low, especially in the public sector. The average salary of a civil servant is equivalent to about $10 per month and is not adequate to maintain a decent standard of living. Productivity in the public sector is correspondingly low, and many civil servants make only minimal appearances in their offices. Workers resort to second jobs, corruption, assistance from other family members, and remittances from abroad to support themselves and their families.